

Which Petition was read here and rejected.

L. H. J.

Coll^o Ward and Benjamin Tasker Esq^r from the Upper House delivered to M^r Speaker the Governour's Answer to the last Address p. 189 of this House which was this [The text of this answer is printed at page 13.]

And the following Paper Viz.

Reasons against the Act of Assembly for Improving the Staple of p. 190 Tobacco in Maryland.

Because as to the General View of the Act it Appears Very doubtful whether it will in any Measure Answer the End intended so as Either to diminish the quantity of Tobacco to be made in the Province or raise the price in proportion to such Diminution Since the Value of the Tobacco depends upon the Demands of foreign Markets which are not Confined in their Supply to Maryland, but may be Supplied from Divers Other Plantations as well of English as of Dutch & French

Because the Method prescribed by the Act for Adjusting future payments in Tobacco upon the foot of a Supposed rise of its Value is unequal & Consequently unjust for let the Value rise as it will that Can be no reason why the Property of the Publ^{ck} or of any Private man should be in any Degree Substantially Diminished which must Necessarily be the Effect of this Act for Supposeing the Value should Rise one fourth above its price precedent to the Act the future payments Ought at Least in all Events to be three fourths of the Whole Tobacco that would Otherwise be due, & these three fourths ought not to be put upon a worse foot than the Whole was before the Act by forceing the Owners to Sell those three fourths at any Certain price and much less at the Certain price of Ten Shillings p Cent which is as I am Informed not more than the usuall price of Tobacco Precedent to the Act.

But Supposing on the other side it is uncertain whether Tobacco will rise in that proportion it is Still more unjust that the Creditor Whether the Public or any Private person should run all the Hazard of the Act without a possibility of gaining by it which must be the Case where the Election is given to the Debtor Either to pay it in Tobacco or in Mony at a Certain rate.

Because if the future payments in Tobacco were to Stand upon their Old foot without any Deduction tho the Tobacco should rise in Value by the Diminution of its quantity Yet in the Event neither the Receivers of the Tobacco when at that Advanct price would be Gainers or those who pay be Losers by it because the Riches of the People & the Price of all other Commodities will probably encrease in Proportion.

That the Riches will be encreas't in that Case is Manifest because p. 191 a Lesser quantity of Tobacco will be Equal in Value to a greater